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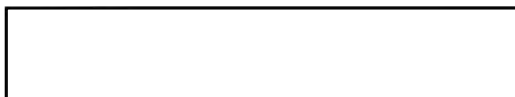


DIRECTORATE OF
INTELLIGENCE

Intelligence Memorandum

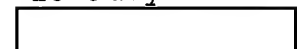
RECENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTH VIETNAM
SOUTH OF THE 20TH PARALLEL

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16 July 1968



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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
16 July 1968

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

Recent Activities in North Vietnam
South of the 20th Parallel

Summary

North Vietnam continues to expand its military and logistical capabilities south of the 20th Parallel. The railyard at Thanh Hoa, north of the 19th Parallel, is being restored, and continues to handle substantial volumes of rail traffic. The railyard at Vinh, however, has been subject to heavy air attack, and is currently inoperable. New storage and transshipment areas continue to be detected by aerial observers. Five dispersed POL sites and two storage/transshipment areas were detected south of the 20th Parallel in the past week.

Truck sightings [] were 20 percent higher than the weekly average noted since 31 March, and the number of trucks reported destroyed or damaged increased sharply from last

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[] A MIG-17 and a MIG-21 were shot down in encounters with US fighters.

Note: This memorandum was produced solely by CIA. It was prepared jointly by the Office of Economic Research and the Office of Current Intelligence and was coordinated with the Director's Special Assistant for Vietnamese Affairs.

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Railyards

1. The Vinh Railroad Yard, south of the 19th Parallel, has apparently become inactive, and through rail traffic to and from the yard has probably ceased since early June. The location and amount of railroad equipment in the area have shown no change since that time. The Vinh complex has been attacked almost daily since the bombing restrictions were imposed on 31 March, and the area is heavily damaged and cratered. In addition, intensive air attacks directed against two key water crossings at Dien Chau and Tam Da have prevented through rail service between the area of the 19th Parallel and Vinh. All bridges at both locations are unserviceable. While shuttle service can continue on the rail line south of the 19th Parallel, the lack of activity at Vinh suggests that some traffic formerly moved by rail has been shifted to other modes of transport.

2. The Thanh Hoa railyard, north of the 19th Parallel, is undergoing considerable reconstruction. Three through tracks in the main yard have been restored, and all the destroyed and damaged cars and locomotives have been removed or discarded. While a high level of activity continued in this yard even prior to the intensive repairs, the recent accomplishments will improve the efficiency of the facility and permit expanded operations. A large turnover of rail cars is apparent

Storage and Transshipment Areas

3. New storage and transshipment areas continue to be detected [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] Five dispersed POL storage sites
[redacted] containing [redacted] 25X1
[redacted] along Route 137, a major infiltration route into Laos. A storage/bivouac area has been detected about one mile off of Route 137 near the largest of the dispersed POL sites; this area is served by a secondary road, a small waterway, and trails, and is also near an extensive cave storage complex. A center of logistics activity has been detected at the junction of Routes 82, 151, and 1115, seven miles southwest of Ha Tinh, itself an important logistics area. The new area, which was not developed as recently as January, contains approximately 400

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vehicle revetments. Four rectangular POL storage revetments are under construction. Extensive vehicle track activity and sightings of POL trucks indicate that the region is extensively used despite repeated attacks. This location is ideally situated to support traffic moving south from Vinh on Route 82, southwest from Ha Tinh on Routes 151 and 15 toward the Mu Gia Pass, or southeast along Route 82 to Route 1A near Ron and Quang Khe.

Truck Traffic

4. [redacted] vehicles increased significantly during the past week and were about 20 percent above the weekly average noted since 31 March. Sightings of truck convoys were widespread, with the heaviest traffic spotted on Routes 101 and 137 toward the Laotian border [redacted] [redacted] destroyed or damaged trucks were nearly three times last week's totals and nearly twice the weekly average of about 192 vehicles recorded since 31 March, as shown in the following tabulation:

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	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>De- stroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>	<u>Total De- stroyed or Damaged</u>	<u>Effective Losses ^{a/}</u>
This week (8-14 July)	840	237	102	339	204
Last week (1-7 July)	451	74	47	121	68
Weekly average (Since 1 April)	689	110	82	192	104

a. Effective losses are computed by deflating reports of destroyed and damaged trucks -- by assuming that 75 percent of those reported destroyed and 25 percent of those reported damaged are actually destroyed and not returned

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Air Operations

6. North Vietnamese MIG fighter-interceptor aircraft resumed flights south of the 20th Parallel on 9 July for the first time in almost two weeks. Flights of MIG-17's and MIG-21's [redacted]

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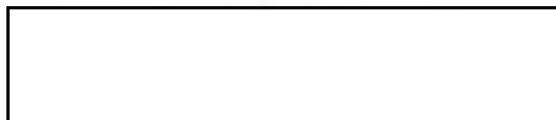
[redacted] flew into the Vinh area on the 9th and 10th to challenge US aircraft. A MIG-17 was shot down on the 9th, and a MIG-21 was shot down on the 10th. [redacted]

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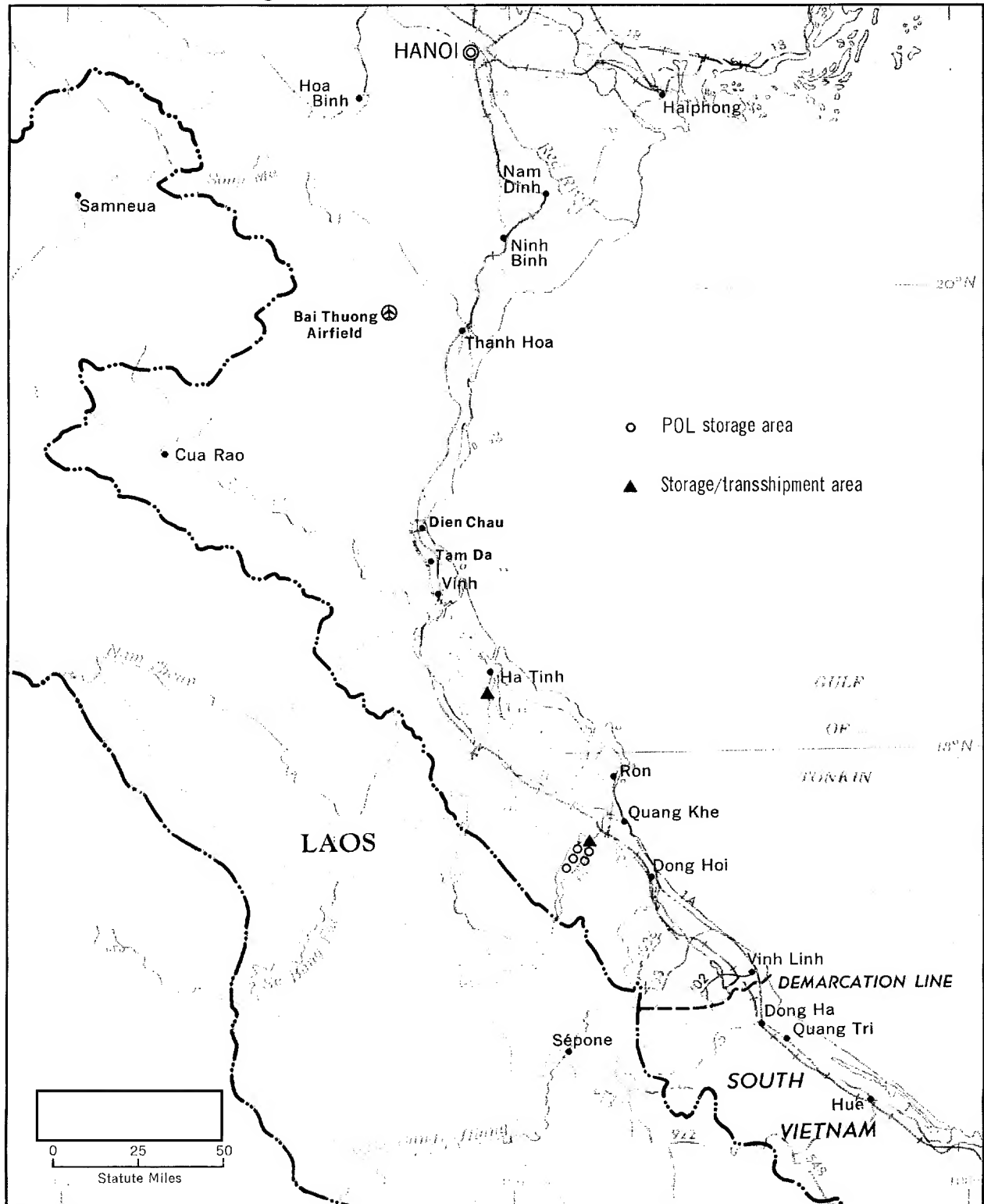


7. Another surface-to-air missile (SAM) firing position or site just north of the central DMZ has been identified in the past week. Twenty-four SAM sites have now been noted south of the 19th Parallel; 15 of the sites have been identified since 31 March. Only five or six are believed to be occupied at any one time, however, and no new deployments of SAM battalions are apparent.



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NORTH VIETNAM: Logistic Activity South of the 20th Parallel



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